



# What Do I Do If I Find a Friendly Cat?

A cat shows up on your doorstep. What do you do?

**Step One** - See if the cat has a microchip. This can help identify the guardian(s) of the cat, and provide contact information so kitty can be returned to her home. Most vet offices and many rescues have microchip scanners that will scan them at no charge and provide you with the owners contact information.

**Step Two** - Ask around. Look for lost pet signs. Ask neighbors if they are missing a pet or if they know the identity of the cat in question. In some cases, these kitties already have a home. Some people are comfortable letting their cats outside, and these cats tend to be friendly.

**Step Three** - Prepare kitty for a new home. Living outside is not safe for cats and getting your new friend checked out by a vet, spayed/neutered and vaccinated is an important first step toward either bringing the kitty into your home, or putting her up for adoption. Organizations like Pet Alliance and Spay N Save of Longwood offer low-cost pet care and/or spay and neuter services. Spaying or neutering is important both for kitty's long-term health and for preventing overpopulation.

Contrary to popular belief, cats can be very happy being indoor-only. It is also much safer for them as they are provided protection against disease, parasites, wildlife, other cats and dogs, automobiles and even the possibility of cruelty.

Keeping companion animals where they belong:  
**WITH THEIR FAMILIES**

**Step Four** - If bringing a new kitty into your life doesn't work with your lifestyle or budget, look for a no-kill shelter or rescue organization that can help.

**TIP:** If you offer to foster the cat (i.e.: keep kitty temporarily while working with the shelter to find her a home), rescues are more likely to be able to offer assistance. Shelters, deal with overcrowding almost constantly, so offering to hold on to an animal that you are looking to re-home takes away some of the burden.

## What If I Find a Kitten?

If the kitten's eyes and ears are closed, cannot eat solid food on its own, and it is not in immediate danger, it is better to leave the kitten where it can be found and cared for by its mother. When they are between 7 and 8 weeks old, you can begin the process of caring for them medically and socially.



## Resources:

Spay N Save  
[www.spaynsave.org](http://www.spaynsave.org)

Pet Alliance of Greater Orlando  
[petallianceorlando.org](http://petallianceorlando.org)

PO Box 742 Apopka, FL 32704  
Message line: 407.900.5387  
[info@FFAnimalFoundation.org](mailto:info@FFAnimalFoundation.org)  
[Facebook/ffanimalfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/ffanimalfoundation)